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NSC BRIEFING

ETHIOPIA

- I. Western-oriented gov't of Ethiopia will remain stable as long as Emperor Haile Selassie (now 65) lives. However, Ethiopian successions are traditionally bloody, and there are several sources of internal dissension.
 - A. Outlying areas, weakly held by Addis Ababa, may try to break away when firm hand of emperor removed.
 - B. Reactionary Coptic church may clash with growing number of young foreign-educated Ethiopians.
 - C. Widespread discontent in Eritrea over Ethiopian violation of federation agreement.
 1. Recent student demonstrations.
 - D. Large Moslem minority susceptible to Egyptian propaganda urging it to take larger role in gov't.
- II. Relations with Egypt are a major problem in Ethiopian foreign affairs.
 - A. Egypt also meddling in Somalia--where Ethiopia has strong ambitions after federation becomes independent in 1960--and planning utilization of Nile water without consulting Ethiopia.
 1. Ethiopia has secret defense agreement with Sudan to meet Egyptian threat.
 - B. Also embroiled with British, Italians and UN over Somalia federation and boundary problem.

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C. Bloc continues to offer some economic assistance.

1. USSR for first time entered Ethiopian coffee market (main source foreign exchange) this spring, bought 2.5% of crop, may buy more.

2. Has reportedly invited Selassie to Moscow.

D. However, Gov't maintains cautious pro-Western policy and relations with US friendly.

1. Pleased with \$4,400,000 promised by Richards mission, but feels that total aid since 1953 less than warranted by demonstrated loyalty to West.